S.No.	Country
1	2
143	Uruguay
144	Uzbekistan
145	Vanuatu

S.No.	Country
1	2
146	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
147	Viet Nam
148	Zambia

H-1B and L-1 VISAS

621. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian professionals in IT industry receive the largest share of H-1 B and L-1 visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the share of such visas in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Indian companies, mostly IT companies, received 12810 H-IB and L-I visas in 2008 out of a total of 85,000 H-1B visas. Infosys (4559), Wipro (2678), Satyam(1917) and Tata Consultancy Services (1539) were the largest users of H-1B visas in 2008. H-1B visa is given to workers in speciality occupations and L-I to all intra-company transferees; irrespective of their sectors. It is, therefore, not possible to ascertain what percentage were given to IT professionals.

(c) Government of India have urged a higher allocation of H-IB and L-I visas for Indian professionals by the US Government.

Military base in Katchatheevu Island

622. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report that Sri Lankan Government is taking steps to build military base in the Katchatheevu Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Sri Lanka has denied any plans to build a military base in Katchatheevu. The issue was raised with the Sri Lankan Government during the visit of a delegation led by Senior Advisor to Sri Lankan President, Basil Rajapaksa, on June 24, 2009. The delegation again clarified that it does not contemplate putting up any military structures at Katchatheevu.

Hacking of Indian computers

623. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: